

PROPOSED BURN PLAN FOR FY 87 PARKER RIVER NWR

To maintain consistency between Parker River's approved Fire Management Plan and this document, all areas will be referred to by their treatment area numbers.

Area #4- Cross Farm Hill (attachment 1)

The treatment specifications in the approved Fire Management Plan remain valid. In addition the failure of the co-op haying operator to hay this unit in CY-86, has increased the need to burn this unit.

BURN PLAN:

1. A 6-10 ft. swath will be mowed around the field in order to establish a line. This line will be used to confine the fire to the grasslands and away from the associated brush, trees and salt marsh. The fuels will be monitored in an attempt to time the burn to achieve maximum thatch removal. The burn will occur during the months of February - March while the ground is still frozen in an attempt to protect the roots of the grasses.

Prescription for the burn will require light to moderate winds (5-10 mph) Easterly or Southeasterly in direction in order to comply with smoke management conditions. A dead fuel moisture of 8-10% and a relative humidity of 20-35% will be ideal for the burn. The grassland will conform to a model 1 fuel model with most grasses lower than one foot.

Ignition will be by drip-torch and accomplished by refuge staff. Two torchs will be needed as a backing fire will be utilized as the major component of the burn. Several fire swatters and the 200 gal. truck mounted pumper should be all the equipment needed. Several McClods will be utilized to rake the line before the burn will start. All of the fire team will be equipped with radios and nomex clothing.

The cost of the burn is estimated at 1,000 dollars of 1260 monies for the approximately 10 man days required to accomplish the burn. This cost includes the pre and post burn activities as well as the equipment costs.

2. Ignition of the fire will begin in the south easteren corner of the field near the refuge road. Fire will be strung along the road at the same time as it is being strung westward away from the road along the mowed line. As the backing fire works its way up the hill from the south and into the wind a flanking head fire will be set along the northeren edge of the field. This fire will move along the northeren edge keeping up with the backing fire being set along the southern edge until the end of the field is reached.

If the backing fire is not able to complete the burn within the time period set by the DEQE then a series of strip head fires will be set along the north/south axis of the unit to speed the burn.

The primary species of plants being burned will be grasses. The time frame of February - March will be within the DEQE's guidelines for agricultural burning. The burn will be by service employees certified for prescribed burning.

3. Control of the burn will be minimum due to the location of the unit. The major concern will be if there is a sudden wind shift. The field is located on a dunlin surrounded on three sides by salt marsh, the forth side is a graded road. Any escapes would be accomplished by retreating into the black zones created by the backing fires being strung along the perimeter of the field. If an escape was necessary during the stringing of a strip head fire a similiar retreat into the black zone directly behind the fire lay would be possible. The pumper would be utilized mainly for the purpose of anchoring the line along the road and during the initial phase of firing along the southern boundry.
4. Mop-up would be minimum due to the light fuels and the cleanness of a backing fire. However thick patches of thach and damp areas may not recieve sufficient heat to burn cleanly. These areas would have to be raked and wet down before the fire could be declared out. Two to three hours could be required to mop up these areas.

Treatment Area #3 - Stage Island Pool (attachment 2)

The treatment specifications of the approved fire management plan remain valid for this unit. In additon the proposed treatment of this area with herbercides to restore the productivity of water-fowl foods require the removal of accumulated vegetation.

1. During the winter the water levels will be kept low to dry out as much of the pool as possible. Some water will remain in the pool and ditches to keep the peat soils moist and to act as natural firebreaks. The eastern boundary of the burn will; boundaries will be the boundry between Sandy Point St. Reservation and the refuge. This boundry is usually mowed to discourage trespass during the hunting season, this mowed area will be utilized as a fire brake as will the refuge road. The northern boundary of the burn will be the dike of the pool and stage island hill. The northern boundry will be mowed if possible during the winter in order to anchor this portion of the line and not allow the fire to burn the brush assoociated with the toe of the hill.

The burn will be attempted during the month of March before the new growth has begun. Fuel model #2, tall grass most nearly describes the fuel to be removed. Moderate winds (5-15 mph) west to northwest are needed to comply with the smoke management requirements of DEQE. A dead fuel moisture of 5-10% and relative humidity of 25-30% is ideal for this burn. The ignition will be by refuge personnel.

The equipment required will be the 200 gal truck mounted pumper, backpacks, McClouds and drip-torches. All members of the team will be issued radios and nomex clothing.

Costs of this burn are estimated to be 1,000 dollars of 1260 monies. This will cover the approximately 10 mandays of personnel and equipment costs.

2. Ignition of the burn will be in March when conditions are within prescription. The initial ignition will be at 10 am after the morning dew has been removed by the sun. The refuge road will be closed to public traffic during the burn. An individual will be stationed in the observation tower during the burn to monitor the weather and the progress of the burn.

Initial ignition will be in the northeast corner of the pool near the dike road's junction with the refuge road. Firing will continue slowly south along the refuge road until it reaches the boundry with the state reservation. Once this backfire has been set parts of the edge along the road will be fired out by walking the waters edge back from the boundry of the state reservation to the point of initial ignition.

The second ignition point will be the toe of the hill adjacent to the dike road. This headfire will be set along the mowed strip between the pool and the adjacent brush. This fire will burn into the pool and be contained by the water and channels in the pool. The line will continue westward until it intercepts the third line at the boundry with the state reservation.

The third ignition will commence at the southeast corner and continue westwardly and northerly along the mowed boundry with the state reservation to the edge of the hill. The initial part of the line will be fired slowly, this will allow the backing fire to move off the line and to create an additional black line to hold the resulting headfire as the line turns across the wind. This windward line will be fired in cordination with the second line so that both will meet at the refuge boundry / edge of the hill and the resulting fire conditions will draw the fire away from the hill and into the pool.

Several smaller islands of vegetation within the pool will have to be fired out as the perimeter fires will not be able to reach them because of flooded channels and gaps in the fuel. These will be head fired individually after the initial fire has burned out.

3. Control of the fire will be accomplished by placement of men and equipment around the perimeter of the fire to watch for any attempt the fire makes to escape.

The major concern will be the brush along the toe of stage island hill and an escape into the state reservation from the initial ignition of the third line along the boundary. Individuals with radios will be stationed along the burn lines to monitor the fire. The pumper will be standing by along the perimeter road with the state reservation to attack any fire that might escape across the line. Escapes into the brush along stage island hill will be allowed to burn out up to the top of the hill. The fire would then be attacked as it reached the top of the hill.

4. Mop-up will be accomplished by a watch of the burned area. Any hot spots will be wet down and raked as needed.

ATTACHMENTS 2: MAPS OF THE AREAS

JFM/BURN87/WS1/30 Jan.87(revised)

ATTACHMENT
#1

